The NHL tabled a proposal to the NHLPA, as I'm sure most of you have already heard. Details are here . I find it very promising that a proposal was tabled in mid-July. Fantastic. Very different from the last CBA negotiations. And the two sides will meet again Monday. Another break through. Remember Bob Goodenow? He would have sat on that proposal and sulked until the end of September.

That's the good news. The bad news is the negotiating games. The idiotic starting point the NHL decided on. Reducing the player's hockey-related revenues from 57 percent to 46 percent is obviously not going to happen, and it is equally obvious that the NHL hopes to start there and meet somewhere in the middle. But I think it was wrong to table something so out of whack. By that theory, start at zero percent – then you can meet at 28.5, right? Anyway, if the end goal is 50, start at 49 and don't budge more than one or two. Don't be insulting. Now the players will just counter with a proposal of 62 percent. All you do is add a couple of weeks to the negotiations. But anyway, I won't dwell. It's a positive thing that a proposal was tabled. Something to start with. And that they are meeting again quickly.

Other issues – the NHL proposed increasing the entry-level contract from three years to five, and changing the UFA from the age of 27 to simply "10 seasons in the NHL". Contracts will be limited to five years, and there will be no more salary arbitration.

One more thing*: "NHL proposal amounts to a Declaration of War against the NHLPA" – Larry Brooks* . Uh, no. Relax Larry. They are no more at war than they've been at any

time over the last six or seven years.

Wouldn't it be funny if the NHLPA said "sure!" and then they signed it? It would be worth a lot to see the look on Daly's and Bettman's faces if they did that…but not billions of dollars a lot.

One of Winnipeg's top forward prospects, Ivan Telegin , will miss prospects camp thanks to an injury suffered off the ice in Russia. The injury is to his hand, and he should be ready to go in September.

I actually got the above news thanks to the DobberHockey Newsfeed . The volunteer team has done a great job staying on top of news in the hockey world and I make it one my sources every evening when I put together the ramblings. It's such a great double-check in case I've missed anything or wanted to discuss anything in particular. I don't like the ramblings to be considered a complete source of news, as this stuff can be found anywhere. But I like to give the fantasy angle on things that interest me and that Newsfeed is a great starting point. You can always access it via the "Free Features" link at the top – as well as the free line combos, archived ramblings, the starting goalies chart,
Band-Aid Boy
s, Windex Wonders and different sets of rules for starting your own keeper league.

Lokomotiv, the KHL team that was tragically lost in the plane crash last summer, will be active in the KHL in 2012-13 and have already signed some 'known' names to contracts. So far – Nikla

s Hagman
, Viktov Kozlov, Staffan Kronwall,
Curtis Sanford
and
Sami Lepisto
.

So is Brad Boyes to be PA Parenteau's replacement? Or is it Colin McDonald? Think about it – Matt Moulson , PA Parenteau, Colin McDonald – all prolific AHL producers joining the Islanders at the age of 26 or 27… Not making a prediction,
just saying
…

I love Angus' thoughts in the ramblings the other day on Wojtek Wolski . His 'easy minutes' vs. 'hard minutes' and the line combos make complete sense to me. He shies away from the 50-point projection a little and frankly I don't blame him. But in my eyes, Wolski either gets eight points or he gets 50-plus. There won't be an in-between. He won't get between nine and 49. It's either success or fail, and it's always smartest to put your money on 'fail' when it comes to players who are on the outs.

If I own Tyler Ennis , I would not trade him for Cody Hodgson . Not close, not interested. And I'm in the minority with this opinion. Follow your own opinion, but if you wanted mine you have it. A little surprised at the poll, but then again not really. Articles such as
this one
over at the Hockey Writers are prevalent – Hodgson is assumed the top guy, while Ennis is the afterthought. Who cares if Ennis was the best Sabre of the final six weeks and posted 22 points in his last 20 games? Or that Hodgson had eight points in that span?

Although the Capitals signed their top draft pick Filip Forsberg to an ELC, he will return to Sweden for the upcoming season. A lot of mock drafts had Forsberg in their first five picks, so the Caps got a steal here.

The Sabres signed Zemgus Girgensons to an ELC and thus he won't be joining the NCAA ranks – it will be AHL or NHL a la Tomas Tatar 's route. He's outplayed Grigorenko in prospect camp.

Carolina signed prospect Chris Terry to a two-year deal. Usually when I see that from a top-scoring prospect who is 23 years old, I expect that the second year will be a one-way deal. That's often how they do things – Cal O'Reilly is one example who pops to mind. But no, Terry's deal is two-way for both years. To me, that's the kiss of death at his age.

Dominik Hasek wants to play in the NHL next year and he full expects to. He is 47 years old, but led the KHL in shutouts last season. Angus got into his recent accomplishments yesterday, but I read here that he's looking for a multi-year deal. Good luck with that. I need a third goalie, is it bad that I actually thought about putting him on my list for a moment?

Hat tip to Puck Daddy for this clip – hockey highlights synced up to soccer commentating:

{youtube}EIC2u-S6_M8{/youtube}